



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

*Court documents associated with this case will be available
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TWO KENTUCKY MEN CHARGED IN METH CONSPIRACY; ROCKET FOUND IN VEHICLE'S TRUNK

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that two Kentucky men were charged today with conspiring to distribute methamphetamine after being arrested by law enforcement officers who also found a rocket rigged to launch from the trunk of their vehicle and a bundle of cash hidden near the front passenger seat.

Michael Ray Sullivan, 41, and **Joseph Calvin Seidl**, 39, both of Kentucky (addresses unknown), were charged in a two-count complaint filed in U.S. District Court in Jefferson City. Both men are in federal custody, pending a detention hearing on June 29, 2005.

Count One of the federal criminal complaint alleges that **Sullivan** and **Seidl** participated in a conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute 500 grams of more of methamphetamine on June 24, 2005, in Callaway County, Mo. Count Two of the federal criminal complaint alleges that **Sullivan** and **Seidl** were in possession with intent to distribute 500 grams or more of methamphetamine on June 24, 2005, in Callaway County.

According to an affidavit filed in support of the criminal complaint, a Missouri State Highway Patrol trooper stopped **Sullivan** and **Seidl**, who were traveling near Interstate 70 and Highway 54 in Kingdom City, Mo., on June 24, 2005. **Sullivan**, the registered owner of the 1990 Ford Thunderbird, was driving and **Seidl** was a passenger. During the stop, the affidavit says, **Sullivan** fled on foot and was apprehended a short time later. **Sullivan** was arrested after having thrown a small amount of suspected methamphetamine onto ground while fleeing, the affidavit says.

During a search of **Sullivan's** car, the affidavit says, law enforcement officers discovered a bundle of cash, containing \$13,534, hidden underneath a newspaper near the front passenger seat.

When officers opened the vehicle's trunk, a hobby-style rocket that was controlled by an elaborate system of ropes and pulleys lifted from a prone to an upright position in the trunk. The affidavit describes the rocket as about 3 to 4 feet tall and 3 to 4 inches in diameter, with a series of wires running from a homemade switch located in the front of the car to a set of eight explosive charges at the bottom of the rocket. The series of wires drew power from a cigarette lighter adapter, all of which appeared to be functional.

According to the affidavit, agents theorized that once the trunk was opened, the driver could press a switch from the front of the car, which would then launch the rocket and its contraband away from the vehicle.

The power source to the rocket was disconnected and upon removing a cone on the top of the rocket, the affidavit says, agents discovered two gallon-sized Ziploc bags containing a large quantity of suspected methamphetamine concealed within the body of the rocket.

There were also what appeared to be three pipe bombs lying on the floor of the trunk that were later determined to be phony. Inside those phony pipe bombs, the affidavit says, were additional quantities of suspected methamphetamine.

Graves cautioned that the charges contained in the complaint are simply accusations, and not evidence of guilt. Evidence supporting the charges must be presented to a federal trial jury, whose duty is to determine guilt or innocence.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney C. Douglas Shull. It was investigated by the Missouri State Highway Patrol and the Drug Enforcement Administration.

This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at

www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow